

APPENDIX G. PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE, PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT, HANDOUT, AND TRANSCRIPT AND COMMENT AND RESPONSES

Appendix G contains the public hearing announcement, public service announcement, public hearing handout, public hearing transcripts, public comments, and agency comments. The subsequent sections are as follows:

- G-1: Public hearing announcement, public service announcement, public hearing handout, and public hearing transcripts
- G-2: Public comments
- G-3: Agency Comments

APPENDIX G-2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Response to G-2-1



Janet Napolitano
Governor
Victor M. Mendez
Director

Arizona Department of Transportation
Intermodal Transportation Division
206 South Seventeenth Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3213

Sam Eilers
State Engineer

October 24, 2005

Mr. Elliott Mott
Navajo Arts & Craft Enterprise
P.O. Box 160
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: US 89—Antelope Hills to Jct. US 160
ADOT TRACS No. 89 CN 442 H5172 01L
Public Hearing Comment Response

Dear Mr. Mott:

Thank you for attending the August 2005 public hearing for the US 89 study. Your attendance and comments were appreciated. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) offers the following responses to your comments, a copy of which is attached:

Comments 1 and 5 regarding the provision of a northbound left-turn into Navajo Arts & Crafts Enterprise (NACE): The Preferred Alternative reflects a northbound left-turn lane and median opening which is south of the existing NACE driveway. The existing turnout has been changed to a right-in/right-out configuration at the current NACE driveway location. These turn locations have been coordinated with the Cameron Chapter of the Navajo Nation, which is working on an access plan for the area. The Cameron Chapter plans include common cross-access for the parcels west of US 89 and south of SR 64 from this northbound left turn lane.

However, because the timing of the Chapter's modified access plans and the construction of their improvements is unknown, ADOT's Final Environmental Assessment and Design Concept Report will specify that if the Chapter's plans are not in place when ADOT's design of US 89 begins for this segment, the northbound left-turn pocket shall be relocated northward to the location of the existing NACE driveway to provide direct access.

Comment 2 regarding turns into the NACE driveway from SR 64: The eastbound right turn and westbound left turn into NACE from SR 64 are reflected in the existing location in the Preferred Alternative.

Comment 3 regarding potential confusion resulting from the proposed roundabout at the US 89/ SR 64 intersection: Roundabouts are being widely implemented throughout Arizona and the U.S. The final design of the roundabout will incorporate geometric elements, as well as signing and pavement marking, to make drivers aware of the roundabout and provide positive guidance and direction. In addition, the roundabout alternative is officially supported by the Cameron Chapter. The Chapter has submitted an endorsement from the Community Land Use Planning committee and supporting resolution passed by the chapter officials and community leaders.



G-2-1



US 89 – ANTELOPE HILLS to JCT. US 160
PUBLIC HEARING



COMMENT SHEET

Thursday, August 11, 2005
Cameron Chapter House
Cameron, Arizona

Please provide us with your comments on the US 89, Antelope Hills to Jct. US 160 Draft Environmental Assessment. You may leave the comment sheet with us tonight, or mail it by September 8, 2005, to Michael Book, Logan Simpson Design Inc., 51 West Third Street, Suite 450, Tempe, AZ 85281, or fax it to him at (480) 966-9232.

Name: ELLIOTT R. MOTT, CEO, NAVAJO ARTS & CRAFTS ENTERPRISE
Address: P.O. BOX 160, WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515
Phone: (928) 871-4939 E-mail: NACEWR1.CITLINK.NET

General Comments: VERY CONCERNED about access to NAVAJO ARTS & CRAFTS ENTERPRISE STORE AT 64/89 INTERSECTION.

- (1) Provision needs to be made for North bound traffic to turn left (W) into NACE STORE SOUTH of ROUNDABOUT
- (2) Provision needs to be made for EAST + WEST bound traffic to turn south into NACE STORE from all 64
- (3) A ROUNDABOUT IS NOT COMMON IN ARIZONA AND I'M CONCERNED about the confusion it will/might cause at 64/89 intersection. IF a motorist misses his/her turn will they be able to correct their error without a potential confusion or accident?
- (4) Provision needs to be made for proper signage to the NAVAJO ARTS & CRAFTS ENTERPRISE STORE due to confusion anticipated from N-S bound traffic in particular, but also traffic entering off of 64 in both directions
- (5) Provision needs to be incorporated for a left hand turn accessing the NACE STORE for north-bound traffic south of roundabout

In Appreciation opportunity to comment at this public hearing
TRACS No. 89 CN 441 H5172 01L
Michael Book

— 62-2-2 —

5.11.11.11.11

G-2-1

- ⑦ Request a copy of the ~~64~~ 89 interchange Diagram Section he mailed to me at my office in Window Rock. See letters on reverse.
- ⑧ Disagree that benefits of divided highway out weight reduction in business access which will result in Cameron at ~~64~~ 89 interchange

Mr. Elliott Mott
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The proposed roundabout will improve community definition and be a benefit to businesses and the surrounding area because it will slow traffic by design. Roundabouts also reduce the intersection delays which would typically occur with a traffic signal. In addition, safety is improved since accidents at roundabouts tend to be less severe than those at signalized intersections because of the lower speeds.

Comment 4 regarding signage to the NACE store on US 89 and SR 64: Signing details are an element of final design, which will begin approximately one to two years prior to construction. However, current ADOT policy does not allow special signing for businesses on state highways. During construction, standard "Business Access" signs will clearly identify the entrance to the NACE driveways. As indicated above in the response to Comment 2, access to NACE from SR 64 will be similar to its existing configuration.

Comment 6: Comment noted.

Comment 7 requesting a copy of the US 89/SR 64 intersection layout: A copy of the preliminary roundabout layout is attached.

Comment 8 regarding opinion that benefit of divided highway does not outweigh impacts to business access in US 89/SR 64 intersection area: ADOT is proposing a roadway with a raised median through this commercial area. This configuration is typical of an urban/commercial setting used in cities and more congested traffic areas. An urban-type facility is necessary in this area because it slows traffic and provides more-defined turning and access opportunities for motorists. The raised median separates opposing traffic and provides a refuge for pedestrians. A divided highway facility would be more restrictive, allowing much fewer turning options. ADOT has chosen the urban roadway option instead of a divided highway through Cameron because of the restrictions associated with a divided highway.

I hope this letter provides a satisfactory response to your comments. Note that there will be additional coordination with the community and business owners during the final design process. Please contact us if you have additional questions or concerns.

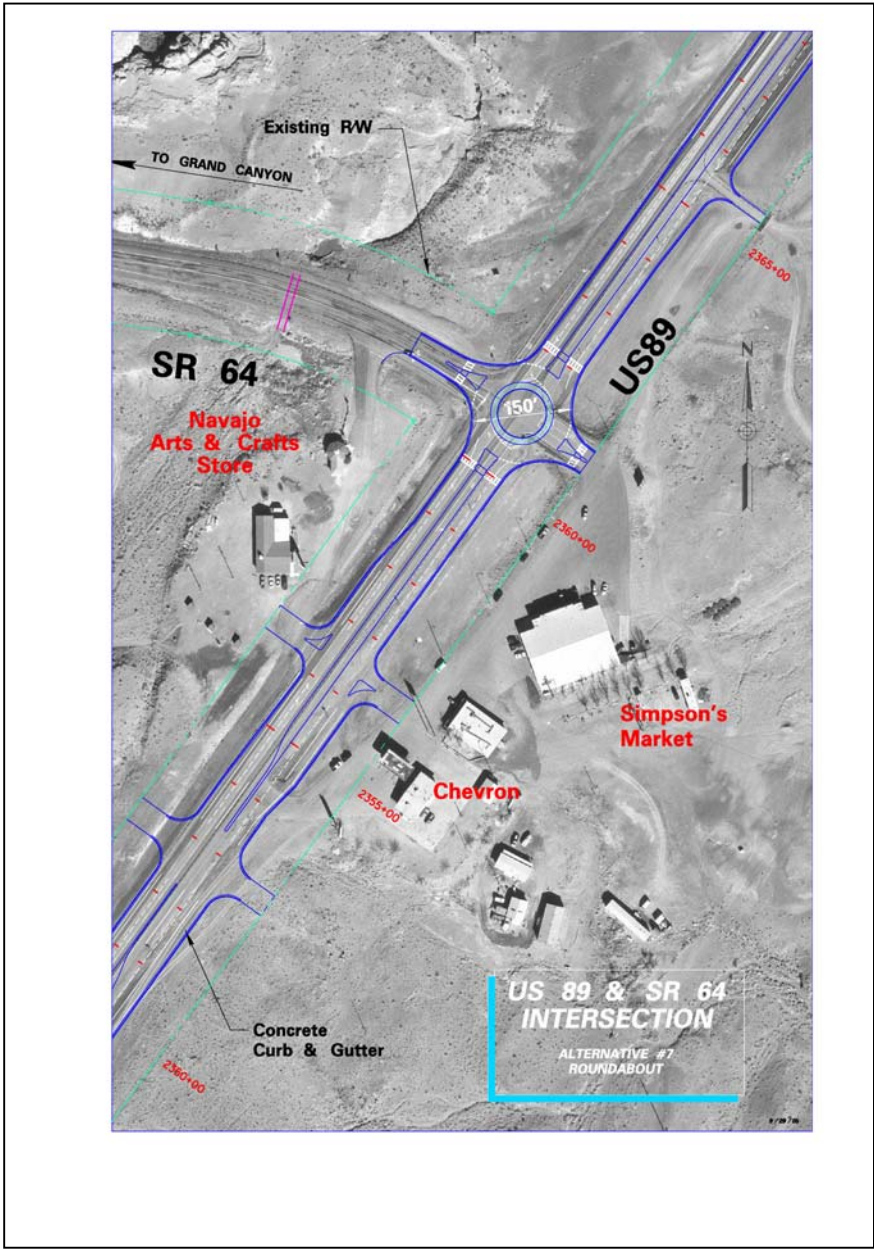
Sincerely,

John Harper, P.E.
Arizona Department of Transportation
Flagstaff District Engineer

Attachment

cc: W. Kent Link, ADOT Flagstaff District
Justin White, ADOT Environmental & Enhancement Group
Tami Wollaston, ADOT Pre-design
Steve Thomas, Federal Highway Administration
Mike Chase, Stanley Consultants
Diane Simpson-Colebank, Logan Simpson Design





Response to Comment G-2-2

The information on cultural resources sites is considered sensitive and in some cases, restricted by law to protect the integrity of the cultural resources. ADOT cannot release information to the general public without written approval from the appropriate agencies. You can contact Alan Downer at the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department for information on the cultural resources located on Navajo land. For information on Hopi sites, ADOT would require written approval from the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office (Leigh Kuwanwisiwma) before releasing any information.

G-2-2



US 89 – ANTELOPE HILLS to JCT. US 160

PUBLIC HEARING



COMMENT SHEET

Thursday, August 11, 2005
Cameron Chapter House
Cameron, Arizona

Please provide us with your comments on the US 89, Antelope Hills to Jct. US 160 Draft Environmental Assessment. You may leave the comment sheet with us tonight, or mail it by September 8, 2005, to Michael Book, Logan Simpson Design Inc., 51 West Third Street, Suite 450, Tempe, AZ 85281, or fax it to him at (480) 966-9232

Name: Mae Frankli
Address: _____
Phone: 928-606-6594 E-mail: mae-frankli@hotmail.com
General Comments: _____

where
There are 37 cultural sites, can a community
request those information? (those in own community
area)

TRACS No. 89 CN 441 H5172 01L

G-2-3



Hufford, Horstman, Mongini, Parnell, & McCarthy pc

attorneys at law

C. Benson Hufford R. Gehl Tucker * Michael E. J. Mongini
 Patrice M. Horstman David A. Womochil * Sara J. Fowell
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 Flagstaff, AZ 86002 Cottonwood 928.634.3621

June 10, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE and REGULAR
 MAIL TO:

Diane Simpson-Colebank
 Logan Simpson Design Inc.
 51 West Third Street, Ste. 450
 Tempe, AZ 85281
 480-966-9232

US Department of Transportation
 Att: Robert E. Hollis
 Division Administrator
 Arizona Division
 400 East Van Buren Street
 One Arizona Center, Ste. 410
 Phoenix, AZ 85004-2264
 602-379-3608

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment
 US 89 Antelope Hills Junction US 160
 Project No: STP-089-C(AEA) (HA-AZ)
 TRACS No. 089 CN 441 H5172 01L

Dear Mr. Hollis:

Our office represents Babbitt Ranches, L.L.C. Babbitt Ranches operates the CO Bar Ranch which covers an expansive area. The above-referenced Project spans across approximately 17 miles of the CO Bar Ranch. Babbitt Ranches, L.L.C., as a fee title landowner, owns the majority of the private land affected by the Highway 89 Antelope Hills - Junction US 160 Draft Environmental Assessment project referred to above.. This project bisects approximately 130,000 acres of private land and specifically bisects 9 sections owned by Babbitt Ranches, L.L.C.

On June 7, 2005 we became aware of the Draft Environmental Assessment for this Project. We did not receive a copy from Logan Simpson nor the US Department of

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Transportation. As a significant private landowner affected by this project, specific input in the Draft of the Study is requested. ADOT's consult is requested prior to submittal of the Draft to the public for input.

The following comments, although numerous, are not exhaustive of the necessary comments for consideration.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| G-2-3-1 | A. Cattle under-crossing through culverts need to be maintained for the ease of cattle and wildlife movement. |
| G-2-3-2 | B. The Pronghorn Corridor referred to in the Draft is critical to maintain. An overpass for the preservation of the corridor is suggested since it is a key corridor. |
| G-2-3-3 | C. Right-of-way fences and cattle guards need to be maintained during construction. |
| G-2-3-4 | D. Cross-over locations sufficient to handle not less than two (2) semi-trucks, stacking with acceleration lanes are required at the following locations:

(1) At approximately MP 455, access to Gray Mountain Pit, an ADOT Licensed Pit and Rinker Material Licensed Pit, which is the primary hard rock source in the Flagstaff-Metro Region.

(2) At approximately MP 447, a proposed new north entrance to Wupatki with western access to Espee Crater Lava Flows to the west. The future expansion of Wupatki to the 23,000 acres to the North would make a more long-term access point for both east Wupatki and west Babbitts and Espee Crater Lava Flows, which is a State Wonder of public importance, or future State Park or Monument.

(3) At approximately MP 451.5, Spider Web Camp Headquarters, Babbitt Ranches, which is a cattle shipping and receiving facility for the CO Bar Ranch.

(4) At approximately MP 457.9, cross-over access for the east and west sides of Highway 89. The Reservation access road on the east and the recorded access easement line on the private land south of the Reservation, needs to have one significant access point versus two adjacent drives. This access on the Church Site would better accommodate the Church for buses visiting the Church. |
| G-2-3-5 | E. Utility conduits needs to be placed under the road at various cross-over locations and pipeline locations and historic locations which may not be identified. |
| G-2-3-6 | F. Cattle guards with gates at all Ranch roads; along with locked cattle drive gates at current locations, approximately one mile apart in the event cattle need to be removed from the right-of-way. |

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Response to Comment G-2-3-1

The proposed improvements to US 89 will accommodate livestock movement where feasible under US 89 through culverts and will be determined during final design.

Response to Comment G-2-3-2

ADOT Environmental & Enhancement Group will establish a Wildlife Connectivity Technical Advisory Committee (WCTAC) consisting of representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), National Park Service (NPS), Navajo Fish and Wildlife Department (NFWD), and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). The WCTAC will provide recommendations to ADOT and FHWA on the appropriateness of a pronghorn crossing structure, and identify the potential location and conceptual design of a crossing structure if warranted for consideration prior to final project design. In addition, the WCTAC will also address wildlife connectivity in general for the project.

Response to Comment G-2-3-3

Right-of-way fencing and cattle guards will be maintained during construction.

Response to Comment G-2-3-4

Final crossover location and the need for acceleration lanes will be determined during final design.

Response to Comment G-2-3-5

Utility conduit locations will be determined during final design.

Response to Comment G-2-3-6

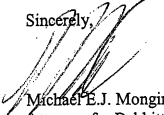
Cattle guard locations will be determined during final design.

Response to Comment G-2-3-7

To avoid acquiring easement through Wupatki National Monument, consideration was given to bypassing the Monument west of the current US 89 alignment. Five Western Realignment Alternatives were evaluated. These alternatives would require from 78 to 193 acres of new right-of-way, and the realignment alternatives would directly and/or indirectly impact Hank's Trading Post, whose property line lies approximately 3,000 feet north of the Monument boundary. The Western Realignment Alternatives would fragment and eliminate wildlife habitat with the development of a new roadway. The Western Realignment Alternatives were eliminated because of the fragmentation and elimination of wildlife habitat, loss of grasslands, substantial change in the visual character of the landscape, the amount of new right-of-way/easement required, potential economic impacts to Hank's Trading Post, and out-of-direction travel for US 89 motorists. In addition, all but one of the Western Realignment Alternatives would have the potential to induce private development along the US 89/Monument western boundary, which the NPS would oppose. For these reasons, a bypass around the Monument was eliminated from consideration. Refer to Section III. Alternatives and Appendix A in the Final Environmental Assessment for more information regarding the evaluation of alternatives.

Response to Comment G-2-3-8

Mr. Cordasco and Mr. Mongini have been added to the project contact list.

G-2-3	
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G-2-3-7	Highway 89 through Babbitt Ranches should not have bottle necks on either side. As an example, the roadway should go around Wupatki National Monument so as to have sufficient width for future right-of-way needs. The same should occur at Gray Mountain and Cameron locations.
G-2-3-8	Babbitt Ranches should be considered a stakeholder in the planning and designing of the proposed roadway expansion. It is requested that public notice and information be sent, as such notice and information is sent to other stakeholders, to the following addresses: William Cordasco, President Babbitt Ranches, L.L.C. P.O. Box 520 Flagstaff, AZ 86002 Michael E.J. Mongini General Counsel for Babbitt Ranches 120 N. Beaver Street Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Your cooperation and future consult is appreciated. <div style="text-align: center;"> Sincerely,  Michael E.J. Mongini Attorney for Babbitt Ranches, L.L.C. </div> MEM:jb <div style="text-align: center;">117888.1 6/10/2005</div>